

COMMISSIONER'S MINORITY HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
January 12, 2010 – 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Bon Secours Richmond, 4121 Cox Road, Suite 110, Richmond, Virginia 23060

Member Attendees: Via Phone: Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD, MPH; Jane G. Cabarrus
In Person: Melissa Canaday; Lucie Ferguson, PhD, MPH, RN; Michael A. Pyles, PhD; David Simmons, MSN, RN, CNN; and Claudia M. Tellez

Members Absent: Judy Anderson; Hassan Yousuf, MD; and Rudolph Wilson, PhD

Staff Attendance: Michael Royster, MD, MPH; Karen Reed, MA; Susan Triggs, RN, MPH; and Michael Wilkerson – Intern

1. Welcome

Meeting called to order by David Simmons, MHAC Chair.

2. Agenda

The agenda was adopted by the MHAC members

3. Minutes

October 13, 2009 minutes were adopted as written by MHAC members.

4. Tribute to MHAC Member: Reverend Baxter C. Harrington Memorial Presentation

Dr. Remley reflected on the life of Reverend Baxter C. Harrington and his years with MHAC. She mentioned the passion with which he served in all areas of his life. Besides serving as Chair of MHAC for one year, he was also owner and President of the Minority Organ and Tissue Transplant Education Program of Richmond. Rev. Harrington traveled to Osaka, Japan in 1994 to speak before the Twenty-Fifth World Congress on Donation and Transplantation. His years of dedication to this cause resulted in many African Americans and others having greater quality and longevity of life. Reverend Harrington passed away on December 14, 2009 at the age of 52.

5. Presentations to Outgoing Officers and Welcoming of New Officers

Dr. Remley presented Certificates of Appreciation to outgoing officers: Chair – David Simmons, MSN, RN, CNN; Rudolph Wilson, PhD – Vice Chair; and Gail Jennings, PhD – Secretary. Incoming officers were welcomed and charged with their new duties of guiding the MHAC meetings for the 2010 year. New officers are: Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD – Chair; Lucie Ferguson, PhD, MPH, RN – Vice Chair; and Melissa Canaday – Secretary.

6. Statement of Commissioner

- Dr. Remley reviewed her December 8, 2009 letter to MHAC regarding the legislative recommendations they made.
 - She stated that she is very proud of the decreased rate of infant mortality during the year. Along with this pride in the progress that was made, there is also the reality that there continues to be a large disparity between African American women and white women in Virginia. The greatest change was in African American communities where stakeholders pulled together to facilitate a reversal in this negative health outcome, but the disparity persists.
 - The Healthy Baby Healthy You program will be lead by Dr. Archer of Virginia Union University who will also guide the very important evaluation process. The AARP/NAACP partnership will highlight a virtual website to educate and promote

- healthy pregnancy. Dr. Remley would like to have an article in the spring about how health equity and social justice impact pregnancy outcomes.
- The National Text for Baby Initiative will send text messages to pregnant women to educate them about how to have a healthy pregnancy and a healthy baby. This project is the result of a partnership between the Department of Defense, the White House, and George Washington University.
 - One of Dr. Remley's visions for the future is that every woman of child-bearing age that comes to the local health department, for whatever reason, will be offered counseling on taking multiple vitamins and folic acid.
 - She informed the group that she invited to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day by speaking at a 25th Alpha Phi Alpha event. She mentioned her desire to partner regionally and locally with this organization.
- **Healthy People 2020**
 - Dr. Remley advised MHAC that VDH received a CDC grant (one of 14 awarded) to educate Virginia executive branch agencies and legislators about health equity and weaving its concepts into the fabric of what state government does as they run the affairs of the Commonwealth.
 - She wants agency heads to think about how their strategic planning/policy decisions affect the public's health
 - To educate incoming state agency heads and legislators, a Power Point was created to, in part; educate leaders on who they should call with their health questions.
 - Information will be shared with MHAC and the public as it is shared with state leaders.
 - Dr. Remley will also capitalize on opportunities to champion the H1N1 vaccination process.
 - Dr. Remley talked about wanting to create something that paints a picture for the public of who we are and what we do as public health professionals in the Virginia Department of Health.
 - Dr. Royster discussed economic development and job development as a means of making the link to health equity and social justice.
 - Lucie Ferguson queried whether this information can be put into archives and made available to everyone on an ongoing basis.
 - **General Assembly (GA)**
 - The first meeting of the GA will take place on January 13, 2010. This is a long session with 20 new members engaging in the process.
 - The Virginia Immunization Information System (VIIS) has developed an H1N1 registry. The emergence of H1N1 has increased the number of hospitals, doctors, and pharmacies participating in the system and includes 7 million to 8 million data points. There is a move afoot to expand the registry in the future. Dr. Remley will facilitate the targeting of community efforts around vaccinations to centralize medical records for patients. In this way problems can be identified along with the areas where they are most prominent. Trust is a huge issue with population vaccinations.
 - There is a higher incidence level this year than there has been in other years. People need to get vaccinated to prepare for coming years.
 - Public Health officials are expecting three waves of H1N1 similar to the 1957 crisis.
 - Finally, Dr. Remley mentioned that there is a good supply of vaccine throughout the Commonwealth. The vaccine is good for one year.

7. OMHPHP Updates

Dr. Royster

- Informed the group that he is scheduled to speak at the ASTHO strategic planning meeting before state and territorial health officials in February 2010. He advised that he will talk to state, local, and federal attendees about cross cutting issues that promote health equity. The goal is that this will impact the role they will have to promote health equity around the country. The most recent H1N1 public health crisis has highlighted the need to understand health equity, health education, and social justice.
- The Federal Office of Minority Health is moving the agenda of health equity forward. Dr. Royster has been working with HUD and other agencies in this regard.
- Dr. Royster gave two presentations at the 2009 American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He talked about the structure of the OMHPHP and discussed state health equity initiatives. ASTHO's Senior Health Equity Analyst also presented at the meeting. Dr. Royster also gave a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) presentation for Ken Studer, the Social Epidemiologist in the OMHPHP. As part of the GIS discussion, he talked about the Cancer Registry and the Cancer Program. He advised the group that the theme for the 2010 APHA Annual Meeting will be social justice.
- The state health department in Minnesota is working on integrating health equity into their work. Dr. Royster has been invited to be a video-conference presenter for that meeting. He told the group that Virginia is one of a small but growing number of state health departments that are promoting a broad integration of health equity around the country.
- Claudia Tellez asked about discussions regarding legal/medical partnerships around health equity. She advised that the Fairfax County Bar Association has partnered with her organization, Project Access of Northern Virginia. She suggested that this is an area open to investigation because very little is available at this point. Dr. Royster asked her to share information as she learns more and said to attendees that "we will work with her efforts" in this regard. He noted that Massachusetts has a program of this type, but said he is unfamiliar with the details.

Karen Reed

- Informed attendees that Anika Richards, student Intern, will be evaluating our health equity campaign, hoping to have assessment at the April meeting.
- Upcoming Division of Health Equity presentations include:
 - University of Richmond, brown bag luncheon
 - Heritage Month programs
 - CLAS Act training programs
 - Presentation to the American Medical Student Association Leadership Institute about integrating health equity into a primary care paradigm.

8. Announcements

- Dr. Royster reminded the group about the Rural Health Summit March 16, 17, and 18, 2010 in Danville, Virginia. Susan Triggs will send information to MHAC members.
- Lucie Ferguson told the group about her trip to New York in early December to learn about the Harlem Children's Project. Their efforts were focused on a specific Harlem neighborhood program in which 90% of the children in the program go on to college. Partners supporting this effort are the Community Foundation, the Robins Foundation, Richmond Memorial Healthcare Foundation, and Bon Secours Richmond. She also talked about the Bon Secours Charette at Richmond Community Hospital in Richmond's East End that will focus resources on specific areas.

- Jane Cabarrus informed the group that Dr. Haschal, a Neurologist in the Eastern Shore region has been working with men in the region and has found an increasing number of brain tumors/cancers. She highlighted the importance of the "Know Your Family History" night program. Lucie Ferguson suggested that she contact Jim Martin, with the VDH Cancer Registry for data in this regard.

9. New Member Nominations

Dr. Royster led the discussion regarding new member nominations. The primary goal of MHAC is to provide recommendations to the Commissioner. The OMHPHP will collect names and resumes/CVs to present to Dr. Remley. Areas of diversity that will be considered in selecting new members include:

- Geography
- Race/Ethnicity
- Sector Representation
- Community Representatives

The suggestion was made that MHAC should have youth representatives. Michael Pyles mentioned that, historically MHAC has had social services representatives. He added that there needs to be more input from community activists. Dr. Remley suggested that MHAC should search for grant funding to pay for people to travel to meetings, saying this would increase attendance. Other suggestions include:

- Develop a list of key contacts in various parts of the state
- Contact health directors
- Tap into SWAM (Small Businesses, Women, and Minorities)
- Contact Asian Chamber of Commerce
- Representatives from community health centers
- Representatives from the legal community
- Baptist General Convention
- Fraternities and Sororities

The term of service is 4 years. It has also been determined that MHAC members can participate by phone. **Members should send information on potential MHAC members to Susan Triggs by February 2, 2010.**

10. Strategic Planning

Susan Triggs engaged the group in the strategic planning process. Suggested **Recommendations** include:

- Recommendation was made to partner with the Health Commissioner to raise public awareness about inequities in her priority areas and in general. Members stated that health inequities will not end with health care reform because they are the result of the distribution of multiple social determinants and are the root causes of health inequities.
- Recommendation that MHAC could sponsor awards to organizations that promote reductions in the inequities in infant mortality rate or other health inequities.
Recommendation that MHAC members bring potential new members to the attention of the Commissioner through the OMHPHP that are culturally competent and can make recommendations regarding educating children to become the doctors, health professionals, etc from their own communities. Melissa Canaday offered to contact two Native American Indian Chiefs to ask if they are able to be considered.
- Will recommend that those organizations that receive state funding have reporting accountabilities to the communities they represent.

- Recommended that Dr. Remley make a HP2020 presentation to MHAC.

Notes from the discussion are attached.

11. Announcements

None

12. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Meeting Adjourned

.....
The NEXT MHAC MEETING is scheduled for:

Date: April 13, 2010 **Time:** 11:00 am-2:00 pm

Location – Sacred Heart Center, 1400 Perry Street, Richmond, VA 23224

Future MHAC Meeting Dates - 2010

July 13, 2010

Time: 11:00 am-2:00 pm

October 12, 2010

December 14, 2010

Questions or special needs – please contact: Susan Triggs, Health Equity Specialist – 804-864-7429 – susan.triggs@vdh.virginia.gov

Minutes prepared by: Susan Triggs

Minutes reviewed by: Gloria Addo-Ayensu, M.D.